

75 there + be



There was a terrible flood in the UK last summer. There was water everywhere.

1 Form

We can use *there + be* in many tenses and forms, eg:

	SINGULAR COUNTABLE	UNCOUNTABLE	PLURAL COUNTABLE
present simple	<i>There's a flood.</i>	<i>There's water everywhere.</i>	<i>There are lots of storms.</i>
past simple	<i>There was a flood.</i>	<i>There was water everywhere.</i>	<i>There were lots of storms.</i>

Look at those dark clouds. *There's going to be a storm.*

Have you heard the news? *There's been an accident on the motorway.*

I think *there will be* about fifty people at the party.

We also use the negative of *there + be*:

There isn't any food in the fridge.

There haven't been any good programmes on TV for a long time.

To form questions, we put *be* before *there*:

Is there anyone you know here? Yes, *there is.* / No, *there isn't.*



We don't use *there + be* in continuous tenses:

~~*There's being a concert in the park this weekend.*~~

✓ *There's a concert in the park this weekend.*



We use *there + is* (a singular verb) with a list of singular nouns:

~~*There are a film, a concert and a football match on TV tonight.*~~

✓ *There's a film, a concert and a football match on TV tonight.*

2 Use

We use *there + be*

- to say where something is:

There's a bank in the High Street. There's some salt in that cupboard.

- to say when something happens:

There was a robbery in the town last night.

There'll be another concert in the village hall on Friday.

- to show something to someone:

Look! *There's a bird in that tree.*

- to say how many:

There are three museums in the city. There have been five really bad storms in the last week.



We need the word *there* in these sentences:

~~*Is a strange cat in the garden.*~~ ~~*It is a strange cat in the garden.*~~

✓ *There's a strange cat in the garden.*

~~*Are three cash machines here.*~~ ~~*They are three cash machines here.*~~

✓ *There are three cash machines here.*

Practice

GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the conversation with a form of *there + be*.

- A Hello, I'm calling about the advert in the newspaper, for offices.
B Ah, yes, you'd like to rent one of our offices?
A Yes, probably. How many (0) *...are there...* for rent?
B (1) two offices free at the moment. They're both the same size.
A Oh, good. (2) a kitchen in the building?
B Yes, (3) a kitchen on the ground floor.
A OK. (4) a photocopier and a fax machine?
B Well, (5) three photocopiers, one on each floor, but no fax machine, I'm afraid.
A Mmm. What about transport? (6) a station somewhere near the offices?
B No, (7) But there's a bus stop outside, and the bus goes to the town centre.
A OK, so (8) a car park?
B No, not at the moment, but (9) one soon – we're building one this year.
A Has there been a lot of interest in your advert?
B Yes, (10) over twenty calls.
A OK. Thank you. I'll think about it.

GRAMMAR IN USE Choose the correct words in *italics* in the text.

Future Shock

Some people still say that our weather isn't changing, or that the problem isn't very serious, but there (0) *have* / *has* been a lot of signs of change in the last few years. It seems that every month there (1) *is* / *are* another terrible storm somewhere in the world. In fact, in the last twenty-five years, (2) *it has* / *there have* been twice as many storms as in the twenty-five years before that. (3) *Are* / *There are* also other

problems which should worry us, for example, (4) *there were* / *it was* terrible floods in the United Kingdom in the summer of 2007, which is very unusual. In some places, (5) *it* / *there* isn't enough rain, for example, Australia is usually extremely dry. If we allow these weather changes to continue, (6) *there will be* / *will be* more and more problems of this kind in the future.

Find five more mistakes in the sentences and correct them. Tick (✓) the correct sentences.

- There is
0 ~~Is~~ a really nice beach in the north of the island.
1 Are there lots of books for this course?
2 Weren't any new students in my class yesterday.
3 There are a bank, a post office and a supermarket here.
4 There will be a lot of building work in the town next year.
5 Are going to be a lot of people at the party?
6 Won't be any rice left for tomorrow if we eat it all now.
7 There was a Toyota and a Honda in the garage.
8 A really bad storm was last year.